REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Claims 11-16, 18-40 and 42-50 remain pending with claims 11, 27 and 36 being independent. Claims 17 and 41 have been canceled and claim 27 has been amended. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 11-50 recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 17 and 41 stand objected-to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as allegedly being of improper dependent form. Without conceding the propriety of this objection, and solely to expedite prosecution, claims 17 and 41 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 27 has been amended in one instance to delete the word "electronic" appearing at the end of the claim. In view of this amendment, the 35 USC 112(2) rejection of claim 27 has been obviated.

Claims 11-50 stand rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being obvious variants of the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,266,651. Without conceding the propriety of this objection, and solely to expedite prosecution, applicant has executed and submits herewith a terminal disclaimer as required by the Examiner.
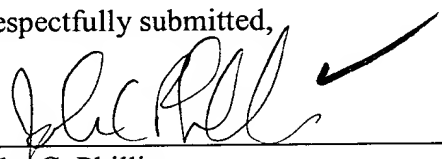
In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/18/03

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claims 17 and 41 have been cancelled.

Claim 27 has been amended as follows:

27.   (Amended) A computer-implemented method of facilitating commercial transactions, the method comprising:

maintaining a first transactional tier comprising items offered to consumer participants under a retail pricing scheme;

maintaining a second transactional tier comprising items offered to dealer participants under a wholesale pricing scheme; and

linking the first transactional tier and the second transactional tier through a data repository having data records that represent items concurrently available in both the first transactional tier and the second transactional tier [electronic].